



**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

**CANDICE MCQUEEN**  
COMMISSIONER

**Via Electronic Mail & USPS**

June 27, 2017

Bob Thomas, Director of Schools  
Knox County Schools  
912 South Gay Street  
Knoxville, TN 37901

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Class Size

Dear Director Thomas:

I am in receipt of your June 20, 2017 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for Knox County Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

The commissioner's waiver authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) is limited by T.C.A. §49-1-104(a), which states that "neither the commissioner nor the state board of education shall grant waivers from the maximum class sizes established in this section."

With the understanding that none of the Career and Technical Education classes in Knox County Schools will exceed 25, the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the 2017-2018 school year.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice McQueen (ye)".

Candice McQueen  
Commissioner

KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS  
ANDREW JOHNSON BUILDING

*Bob Thomas, Superintendent*



June 20, 2017

Commissioner Candice McQueen  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner McQueen:

I am writing to request approval for an exception for the CTE class sizes in Knox County Schools. Currently, policy TDOE CHAPTER 0520-1-3 states that class sizes should not exceed 25 students and the class average should not exceed 20 students. I am requesting to amend these numbers for the 2017-18 school year to a CTE class size not to exceed 30 students and the CTE class average not to exceed 25 students.

Many of our facilities have the equipment to serve more students than we are currently serving. For those programs that are not currently equipped to serve 30 students, we will look into our ability to provide funds to add the additional equipment/supplies needed. We will also take into account classes where, for safety purposes, the current class size remains intact.

As the population in Knoxville continues to grow, we are consistently seeing more requests for CTE classes than we are currently able to serve. Because of this, we are turning students away from programs that provide a pipeline to high wage and high demand jobs.

Labor Market data projects that total employment will grow over the next decade. Occupations that require some postsecondary training for entry are expected to grow the fastest. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Employment Projections for 2010-2020, projects health care, personal care and social assistance, and construction will have the fastest job growth. Office and administrative support occupations are expected to add the largest number of new jobs during this time period.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Thomas  
Superintendent  
Knox County Schools